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The object of *Gut* is to publish original papers and reviews concerned with practice and research in the field of gastroenterology. The field is that of alimentary, hepatic, or pancreatic disease, and papers may cover the medical, surgical, radiological, or historical aspects. They may also deal with the basic sciences concerned with the alimentary tract, including experimental work. The report of a single case will be accepted only if it is of sufficient interest in relation to a wider field of research.

COMMUNICATIONS Two copies of papers should be addressed to the Editor, *Gut*, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9JR. Papers are accepted only on the understanding that they are not published elsewhere without previous sanction of the Editorial Committee. They should be in double-spaced typewriting on one side of the paper only. On the paper the name of the author should appear with initials (or distinguishing Christian name) only, and the name and address of the hospital or laboratory where the work was performed. A definition of the position held by each of the authors in the hospital or laboratory should be stated in a covering letter to the Editor. Communications should be kept short, and illustrations should be included when necessary; coloured illustrations are allowed only if monochrome will not satisfactorily demonstrate the condition. It is not desirable that results should be shown both as tables and graphs.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MANUSCRIPTS Manuscripts will not be acknowledged unless a stamped addressed postcard or international reply coupon is enclosed.

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ETHICS Ethical considerations will be taken into account in the assessment of papers (see the Medical Research Council's publications on the ethics of human experimentation, and the World Medical Association's code of ethics, known as the Declaration of Helsinki (see *British Medical Journal* (1964), 2, 177).

ABBREVIATIONS In general, symbols and abbreviations should be those used by the *Biochemical Journal*. In

any paper concerning electrolyte metabolism, it is desirable that data be calculated as mEq/l. All measurements should be expressed in SI units (see *Journal of Clinical Pathology* (1974), 27, 590-597; *British Medical Journal* (1974), 4, 490), followed by traditional units in parentheses. Such conversion is the responsibility of the author.

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Notes and activities

Trial of Chemotherapy for Early Recurrence of Colorectal Cancer

A trial using 5-fluorouracil and methyl CCNU in early recurrent colorectal cancer has seemed appropriate in view of the early warning of such disease often given by rising serum concentrations of carcino-embryonic antigen (CEA). This warning commonly antedates clinical recurrence by six months, and often by considerably longer, and it is questioned whether such advance warning would allow more advantageous chemotherapy when the volume of tumour recurrence was lower. A multicentre trial is being established under the direction of an MRC working party, and centres wishing to include suitable patients should contact Dr P. W. Dykes, General Hospital, Birmingham B4 6NH for further information.

Symposium on Applied Gastroenterology

This annual symposium is being held this year on 23 and 24 September at the London Hospital. The main subjects to be covered are: (1) pancreas, (2) colon and rectum, (3) gastrointestinal hormones and myoelectric activity, (4) hepato-biliary system: function, (5) hepato-biliary system: diagnosis and techniques. The special London Hospital Medical College Lecture will be given by Professor L. Demling (Erlangen) on 'Endoscopic papillotomy and removal of gallstones'. The symposium fee is £12.50 and those wishing to attend the symposium should apply to the Surgical Unit Secretary, The London Hospital, Whitechapel, London, E1 1BB.

Third International Coeliac Symposium

This will be held in Galway, 19-21 September 1977, just before the meeting of the British Society of Gastroenterology, 29 September—2 October 1977, which will be held in York. The organizing committee is Professor Brian McNicholl, Regional Hospital, Galway, Professor K. McCarthy, and Professor Pat Fottrell.

Hepatic Coma Syndrome

A course on 'The hepatic coma syndrome: advances in pathogenesis and treatment', sponsored by Yale School of Medicine and directed by Dr. Harold O. Conn will be held from 11-13 November 1976 at the

Yale New Haven Medical Center' New Haven, Connecticut, USA. Details may be obtained from Dr. H. O. Conn, Yale University School of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, 333 Cedar Street, New Haven, Connecticut 06510, USA.

American Pancreatic Study Group

Annual scientific meeting, November 1976, Chicago, Illinois. Details from Dr. Frank P. Brooks, Department of Physiology, University of Pennsylvania Hospitals, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104, U.S.A.

the most rapidly developing fields of medicine. Morton I. Grossman, in the introduction, gives an outline of new trends in gastrointestinal hormone research. Professor R. A. Gregory, who originally isolated gastrin, has contributed a section on the chemistry of gastrins. Topics discussed in the 46 papers are gastrin (with emphasis on molecular heterogeneity), endocrine cells of the gut, trophic actions of gastrointestinal hormones, new radioimmuno-assay methods for secretin and cholecystokinin, binding sites and actions of gastrointestinal hormones, mechanisms of release of gastrointestinal hormones (including a section on the action of bombesin), and chemistry and physiology of new hormones (gut glucagon, GIP, VIP, motilin, bulbogastrone, and chymodinin).

Surgical Techniques Illustrated vol. 1, no. 1. **Cholecystectomy and Cholangiography: Parotidectomy.** Edited by R. A. Malt (Pp. 80: illustrated: subscription £35 p.a. 4 issues). Little, Brown: Boston. 1975. This is a new quarterly publication by Little, Brown and Co. of Boston. Very clear perspective drawings provide great detail of the sequential steps of alternative methods.

Notes on books

Dietitians of the Future A report by a working party of the Dietitians Board. (Pp. 36; price not stated). Council for Professions Supplementary to Medicine: London. 1975. This report makes the case for further raising of the status of dietitians with the hope that in time there will be an all-graduate course. They must be willing to act as consultants and not regard themselves as technicians. Undoubtedly their influence will extend more into the field of nutrition in the community as well as therapeutic work. A point not made in the report is the need for each dietitian to have an official link with the medical committee, so that one physician—perhaps the gastroenterologist or the endocrinologist—can help to press the need for better therapeutic or advisory services in each hospital district.

Gastrointestinal Hormones Edited by James C. Thompson (Pp. 666; illustrated; price not stated). University of Texas Press: Austin and London. 1976.

This fine collection of papers by outstanding authorities on the endocrinology of the gut provides an authoritative summary of current investigations in one of